



# BOBCAT NEWS

A monthly publication of the Villa Park Elementary Home & School League

## Information in this Newsletter...

Jog-A-Thon

5th Grade Mixed Bag Fundraiser

3rd Grade Bike Rodeo

Dad's Club

Fall Family Night

Book Fair

...and more

## Happy Reading

### Principal's Message

**Start the School Year Right by Coaching your Child through Challenges**

**By Principal Little**

With the first full week of school behind us and the day to day reality settling in, many students began to develop worries about the school year. Changes in friends, teachers, and work expectations can cause anxiety. Children often express these worries in absolute terms such as, "I'm the stupidest one in the class", "I have no friends in my class" or, "my new teacher doesn't like me". While these statements can strike fear in the heart of a parent, they provide a golden opportunity to coach our children through life's inevitable challenges. Our job as adults is not to deny these feelings or "solve" these problems, but to develop the child's ability to see and work through difficulties constructively. Try these 10 steps:

Let your child know worries are normal: Reassure your child that many students experience the same problem or worry, especially as they change to a new grade. Remind him that it is not always easy to see other's feelings, so even if he feels like the only one with this worry in the class, this is probably not the case.

Show confidence in your child's ability to solve the problem: Help your child to see that she is capable making the situation better. Remind her that others have faced this problem and worked through it successfully and she will too!

Keep your cool: It is very easy for parents to take on our children's worries and fears, and even magnify them with our own experiences. It is a gift to your child when you keep those emotions in check. Communicate that problem solving is an ordinary part of life and that you can work through together.

Rephrase the worry: Help your child to turn the worry into a constructive question that uses "I" as a subject. For example, you might say to your child, "It sounds like what you are worried about is...*what can I do when I don't understand in class?....how can I make a friend in my new class?.... how can I show my teacher I'm a good student?*".

Chose the right time to problem solve: If your child resists phrasing the problem as an "I question", he may not be ready to work constructively on problem solving. You might try saying, "We don't have to talk about this now, but this is something we can work on together when you are ready". Then be sure to follow up at a time your child is relaxed and feeling positive.

Keep the focus on your child: Often children's worry will focus on other's behavior such as, *why do the other kids ignore me?.... why does my teacher always get me in trouble?* While it's important to acknowledge your child's feelings, focusing on other's behavior can lead to the child blaming others and feeling powerless to change the situation. Refocusing your child on the "I question" keeps the power in his hands.

Consider all solutions: Once your child has accepted a rephrasing of the problem as an "I question", ask her to  
*...continued on Page 2*

### Upcoming Events:

- 9/5-12: Art Masters Lessons
- 9/12: Dads Club Meeting 6:30pm
- 9/13: Gift Scout Info Mtg 5:15pm
- 9/21: H&SL Meeting MPR 8:15am
- 9/22: Fall Pictures (tentative)
- 9/26: 6th Grade Parent Mtg 6:00pm
- 9/27: Chick-Fil-A Fundraiser 12-8pm
- 9/29: Birthday Club
- Student of the Month
- Dads Club Poker Tourn 7-10p
- 10/4: Walk to School Day
- 10/6: Picture Make-Up (tentative)
- Fall Family Night 5:00pm
- 10/11: 3rd Grade Bike Rodeo
- 10/9-13: Book Fair
- Min Days—Conferences
- 10/20: Imagination Machine Assembly
- 10/22: Dad's Club Workday 8:00am
- 10/23-27: Red Ribbon Week



## Principal's Message

*..continued from Page 1*

brainstorm all the things she could do in response. Write down the question and all the ideas you come up with, even those that are silly or unrealistic. When you are out of ideas read the list together, and discuss what you want to eliminate or add.

Teach problem solving as a trial and error process: Help your child chose just one or two ideas from the list to try. You may need to role play or talk through potential obstacles. Check in with your child and praise all attempts, even if they don't work.

Remind your child that not all solutions will work all the time and that's okay. Keep going back to the list until the worry fades or you exhaust all solutions

Know when to ask for help: If you have coached your child through the problem solving process and do not see things moving in a positive direction after a month or more, it's time to ask for help. Usually your child's teacher is your best resource. Request an appointment to discuss the situation. It's a good idea to include your child in at least part of the conference to keep her part of this process.

Remember how far you've come: As your child's worries begin to wane, you can set him up for the next challenge by reinforcing how he has built his problem solving skills as he faced this worry. With each challenge you coach him through, he builds self-confidence and skill to face problems independently.

We parents spend countless hours trying to make everything wonderful for our children. Yet is when our children face challenges that we have the greatest opportunity to coach them in problem solving skills that will last a lifetime.

## DROP OFF / PICK UP PROCEDURES



### Morning Drop off 7:45-8:00

- Please do not drop off early- especially in the back. Students are not supervised
- Allow more time than you think you will need, traffic and parking do move slowly.
- Please check your parking spot, do not park in stalls marked "staff"
- Students should be lined up by 8:00 on the blacktop.
- Please say your goodbyes and exit promptly when the 8:00 AM bell rings.
- **Our priority is getting students to class and securing the campus.**

### Dismissal: 2:05 K-3-2:20 4-6. ( 12:15 Wed.)

- Walking pick up on Lincoln Street until construction complete.
- Clarify your pick up location with your child.
- Post your name for front lot drive up
- Older siblings should meet younger siblings
- Please do not ask your child to wait off campus.
- **Supervised pick up ends at 2:35.**

## H&SL MEMBERSHIP

Here at VPE we are very passionate about making our campus and our school community the best it can be! Our fundraising efforts provide numerous programs and school wide improvements that benefit every student and person on our campus.

Your \$20 membership donation includes access to our online school directory via the My School Anywhere App, where you have access to class and faculty lists, manage your family information and purchase in our store all from your phone. As an H&SL member, you will also receive a VPE window cling.



### Returning Registered Families

If you are already registered, you received an email asking you to update your family information and preferences for the new school year. The link directs you to the school store to pay your membership fees & make any membership drive donations you wish.

### New Families

**Register online at: [join.myschoolanywhere.com](http://join.myschoolanywhere.com)**  
**Invitation Code: *VPEHSL***

Once we verify your family information, you will receive an email with login instructions to access the system. It will take you through the steps and directly into the store to pay the \$20 H&SL membership fee and make any donations for the membership drive.



## President's Message

Welcome Bobcat Families!

This new year has gotten off to a hot start! I hope you are staying cool and adjusting to the school routine. Thank you for your continued understanding as we had to modify our after school pick up procedures due to our on campus construction. We are anxiously awaiting the completion of our new quad area. Great things are happening here at VPE and we are excited for you to be a part of it!

We encourage and invite all families to become members of our Home & School League. The Home & School League is the organized non-profit parent group here at VPE and was created way back in 1931. Together with VPE, we strive to promote a balanced academic experience and student enrichment for all students. The H&SL provides art and music

enrichment, technology upgrades, campus updates, physical education and educational assemblies. How do we do this? With your support of course! We are truly dependent on your contributions. Whether it be your time, knowledge or resources, you will make a noticeable difference for our students and our VPE Community.

Once a member, you will be granted access to our online school directory, be invited to our monthly Home & School League meetings, held the third Thursday of the month in the MPR at 8:15am, and receive a special Bobcat car decal! We invite you to register today and download the My School Anywhere Application. This is an exciting new way for us to be able to communicate and also make available online payments for membership, spirit wear and even register for our awesome end of the year, Dad's Club Camp Bobcat!

Come join us for our first general meeting of the year on September 21st! Younger siblings are always welcome! This is a great way to find out about upcoming activities on campus throughout the school year. Most importantly, our principal, Mrs. Little gives updates on school and district information. We are also lucky to get a grade level presentation from the students about what is currently going on in their classroom. So come by, grab a cup of coffee and a treat and hear about what's happening at VPE!

Please stay up to date with all VPE happenings via our website: [vpe-HSL.org](http://vpe-HSL.org), twitter and Facebook!

I wish all our families a warm welcome and wish you a terrific year!

Sincerely,  
Michelle Gonzalez



Dear VPE Parents!

The 2017 Jog-A-Thon is fast approaching. On October 31<sup>st</sup> all Villa Park Elementary students will participate in our school wide Jog-A-Thon. Like last year, we hope to make this our ONLY fundraiser this year. Last year we brought in \$57K. This year we are raising the bar for our VPE families.

**Let's set our goal high and see if we can raise \$60K for our school!**

Since our annual Jog-A-Thon will be held on Halloween again, it only seems appropriate that our theme for this year's Jog-A-Thon be "Spooky Sprint." Each student will have the opportunity to walk and/or run in an effort to raise money for their school. 100% of the money raised will be used to benefit each child at VPE by enhancing existing programs and providing enrichment to the kids.

Again this year is the opportunity to collect pledges through our POPULAR, EASY, ONLINE SYSTEM called "PledgeStar." You may register your child at: [www.pledgestar.com/villapark](http://www.pledgestar.com/villapark). It takes just minutes to set up your child's own fundraising page. Your family and friends can even pay over the Internet with their credit card. PledgeStar will go live in September! If you prefer, you can still collect money and flat donations using the form that will come home with your student SEPTEMBER 18<sup>th</sup>. Every student will have an opportunity to win prizes AND the top performing student (total pledge dollars) will be awarded an IPAD MINI!!!

Interested in being a sponsor and having your business or family name printed on the back of the 2017 Jog-A-Thon participant t-shirts???? Please print and complete the form on Page 4 and return it to the front office no later than SEPTEMBER 25<sup>th</sup>! Please make sure to check out our sponsorship suited for businesses that would like to advertise their name and logo on our t-shirts...



# Villa Park Elementary Jog-A-Thon 2017 SPONSORSHIP FORM "SPOOKY SPRINT!"

All Villa Park Elementary students will participate in our school wide Jog-A-Thon on Tuesday, October 31st. The theme for this year's Jog-A-Thon is "Spooky Sprint." Each student will have the opportunity to walk and/or run in an effort to raise money for their school. 100% of the money raised will be used to benefit each child at VPE by enhancing our new quad area, existing programs and providing enrichment for all students.

Your support is needed! Please help support the 2017 VPE Home & School League Jog-A-Thon. Four levels of sponsorship are available for financial donations. Keeping with our 2017 Jog-A-Thon theme the four levels of sponsorships are:

**"WICKED WITCH" CORPORATE SPONSOR - \$500**

- Sponsor banner displayed along Villa Park Elementary school fence **FEATURING** company **LOGO**
- Name and **LOGO** on back of Jog-A-Thon participant t-shirts
- Name and **LOGO** recognition in VPE Bobcat News

**"ZOMBIE" SPONSOR - \$300**

- Sponsor banner displayed along Villa Park Elementary school fence
- Prominent placement on back of Jog-A-Thon participant t-shirts
- Special "Zombie" recognition in VPE Bobcat News

**"FRANKENSTEIN" SPONSOR - \$200**

- Name on back of Jog-A-Thon participant t-shirts
- Special "Frankenstein" recognition in VPE Bobcat News

**"DRACULA" SPONSOR - \$100**

- Name on back of Jog-A-Thon participant t-shirts

**Important: Sponsorships do not count towards student pledge benchmarks for fundraising incentives & prizes.**

Family/Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Name as you want it to appear on t-shirt)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name/Grade/Teacher:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

**To appear on T-Shirts, sponsorships must be received by SEPT. 25th.**

Please make checks payable to VPE Home & School League.

VPE Home & School League is a 501 c(3) non-profit organization. Our tax identification number is #23-7171436

Please mail or drop off form with donation to:

Villa Park Elementary, Attention: 2017 Jog-A-Thon

10551 Center Drive, Villa Park, CA 92861



**Fall Family Night**

**Fall Family Fun Night is October 6**

Dads Club will hold its 2nd annual Corn Hole Tournament, followed by a movie under the stars. All the fun starts at 5pm and the movie will begin at dusk.

**After School Enrichment**

We are excited for the variety of After School Enrichment classes that will be offered this school year.

More information and details will be available soon!

**Parent Mixer**

**Fall Parent Mixer is October 27**

Save the date and join us for the Annual Parent Mixer. It's a night of fun, food and raffles.

# COME TO OUR BOOK FAIR!

**SADDLE UP AND READ!**

**Grand Opening ~ Fall Family Night**

**Friday, Oct. 6th from 5pm-7pm**

**Monday, Oct. 9th ~ Friday, Oct 13th**

Dates

**Open After School**

**During Parent/Teacher Conferences**

**Mon.~Thurs. 12:15-3:00pm, Fri. 12:15-1:15pm**

Times

**Y'all come down to the VPE Library!**

**Yeee-Haaaw!!!**

Place





## 5th Grade Outdoor Ed Fundraising



Beginning **Monday, September 11th**, the 5th Grade students at VPE will be selling Mixed Bags. Proceeds from the fundraiser help offset the cost for students to attend Outdoor Education during their 6th Grade year.

Contact your favorite 5th Grader to place an order!!! Don't know any 5th Graders???...You can access the fundraiser through [www.vpe-hsl.org](http://www.vpe-hsl.org) and the proceeds will be distributed among the students.

### SAVE THE DATES:



Chick-Fil-A Fundraiser  
September 27 from 12-8

Fizzy Friday  
October 27 at lunch time

## Dads Club

Our first Dad's Club meeting will be **September 12 at 6:30pm** in the MPR. We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information about Dads Club contact Mark Kuli [dadsclub@vpe-hsl.org](mailto:dadsclub@vpe-hsl.org)



## 3rd Grade Bike Rodeo



With the help of the Orange County Sheriffs department, Villa Park Elementary's annual bicycle rodeo will take place at 8:15am on **Wednesday, October 11.**

This event is for 3rd Graders and any 4th-6th Graders who have not participated in the past. Students bring their bike and wear their helmet; they will be tested on bicycle safety. Each student will be issued a certificate of completion and a Villa Park Elementary license plate. Hope you can attend this exciting event!

## It's Cool to Walk to School

International Walk-To-School day is coming up! On **Wednesday, October 4th** set your alarm clocks a little bit earlier and join in with other parents, students and staff for our walk to school. This year we will be awarding the classroom with the highest level of participation the "Golden Tennis Shoe" award and trophy. So come on out and support your classroom!

If you live too far to safely walk to school, please consider driving to your closet Meeting Point (7:30am Sharp!) and parking so that you and your child can participate in our Walk-To-School Day Event.

Each participating child will receive a small bottled water and snack upon arrival at school. See you there!



## Historic Building Update

Over this summer of 2017, the demolition of the old buildings was completed and construction of a new quad began. Improvement in the courtyard area include...

- Increased audience space for outdoor amphitheater
- Improved drainage – less standing water when it rains
- All new grass and improved landscaping
- Large oval concrete pad for special outdoor area. It will hold lunch tables and future fundraising to add a shade.
- An added campus waiting area, a place for parents & future bobcats to congregate for the time just prior to pick-up an drop-off.
- Historic school monument. The 100 year old Villa Park school bell will be on display along with a portion of the VP crest on the building façade.

By the start of October the work should be complete and all Bobcats will be able to enjoy to the new space and it's amenities.

The Villa Park Home & School League would like offer our sincere gratitude to the OUSD Board of Trustees, administration and staff who made our revitalized campus quad a reality. Last school year, when the VPE parents asked to remove the unsafe historic buildings, the District answered swiftly and professionally. The entire Villa Park community is the beneficiary of this project and we thank everyone who made it happen.



## Art Masters

Art Masters Program provides an art curriculum for our children. Students begin their art lesson by attending an interactive assembly to learn about the Master Artist’s life and famous work. A week later, students take their learning to the classroom where an art teacher leads a step-by-step lesson through the art project. The lesson uses the same medium, style and subject matter as the Master Artist.

Our Art Master of the month is Fredric Remington (1861-1909). We have him to thank for our clear vision of the American Old West. Without his realistic renderings, much of the details that make it unique would be forgotten. Remington’s dramatic historical documentation of the Old West has inspired many students to create mixed media landscape compositions. Ask your children what they have learned about Fredric Remington. Art Masters is funded by the Villa Park Elementary Home & School League.



## Contact Us

The Bobcat News is the monthly publication for families and students of Villa Park Elementary from the VPE H&SL, the non-profit parent group for our school.

**To report absences, please call operation concern at 714-528-9710**

- Kindergarten to 3rd Grade: 8:00 am - 2:05 pm (12:15-1:00 pm lunch)
- 4th Grade to 6th Grade: 8:00 am - 2:20 pm (11:45 - 12:30 pm lunch)
- Every Wednesday: K - 6th Grade: 8:00 am - 12:15 pm

**Principal:** Raeanne Little [rlittle@orangeusd.org](mailto:rlittle@orangeusd.org)  
**President:** Michelle Gonzalez [president@vpe-hsl.org](mailto:president@vpe-hsl.org)  
**Newsletter Editor:** Jacqueline Sobral [webmaster@vpe-hsl.org](mailto:webmaster@vpe-hsl.org)

## Stay up-to-date:



Villa Park Elementary H&SL



[www.vpe-hsl.org](http://www.vpe-hsl.org)



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